



United States Senator
Richard Shelby
REPORTS TO ALABAMA



SPACE EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH SAVED ONCE AGAIN

Imagine for a moment where we would be today if Congress had pulled the plug on the space program in the early sixties due to the cost of exploration and research. Not only would the United States' role as leader in space exploration have been replaced by another, but the likelihood that technology would be where it is today is also questionable.

One can indeed draw a direct connection between our early commitment to the space program, and the modern technological advancements we would now have difficulty living without. It is this remarkable history in space research and exploration that forces me to once again ponder how anyone could question the necessity of our continued effort on this increasingly important frontier.

In what has become an annual challenge to eliminate funding for the Space Station, as well as the role it plays in continued space exploration and research, some Senators once again tried cut funding for these important programs. Fortunately, these attacks were once again unsuccessful and Americans will continue to benefit from the limitless advancements possible through our continued investment in NASA.

While I have always been a staunch advocate of protecting our nation's role in explor-

ing our universe and in supporting those whose discoveries have changed our world for the better, I believe now, perhaps more than ever, is certainly not the time to be short-sited about the unlimited opportunities yet to be discovered through space exploration, space research and the International Space Station.

The recent success of the Pathfinder mission and discovery of water molecules in lunar rocks captured the nation's attention. Beyond the stunning pictures and important data from Mars, we have been reminded of the important contributions that the space program has made to medicine and the development of advanced composite materials.

Space exploration and the International Space Station are important to individual Americans and make a difference in their lives. We already have glimpses of promising discoveries made in NASA's microgravity program. Using data collected on an experiment flown on the space shuttle, researchers at New Century Pharmaceutical in Huntsville determined the 3-D atomic structure of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus which was used to develop an antibody. The capability to conduct long-term experiments aboard the Space Station makes all future developments in science and medicine pos-

sible. As scientists frantically search for a cancer cure, as well as cures for other illness and disease, limiting their research and experimental resources is, at best, unwise and ill-conceived. I believe the Space Station promises to unleash a new era of meaningful extended space-based experiments and research.

In addition, NASA has already taken more than its fair share of budget cuts. Continued reductions in NASA's budget in Fiscal Year 1999 would be the sixth consecutive year of decreased spending for the space program—a reduction that seriously threatens our nation's ability to continue as the world leader in this arena.

Now, more than ever, we need to strengthen the space program, not end it. This most recent victory in which funding for space exploration and research was retained is not just an important victory for NASA, it is a victory for the American people and for the many accomplishments and discoveries still to come. I salute the committed men and women, many of whom work in Huntsville, Alabama's space-related industry, who work tirelessly to ensure that the United States remains ahead of the pack in space, while ensuring that Alabama maintains its important role in the space program.

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT: JULY 13, 1998



United States Senator
Richard Shelby
REPORTS TO ALABAMA



SPACE EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH SAVED ONCE AGAIN

Imagine for a moment where we would be today if Congress had pulled the plug on the space program in the early sixties due to the cost of exploration and research. Not only would the United States' role as leader in space exploration have been replaced by another, but the likelihood that technology would be where it is today is also questionable.

One can indeed draw a direct connection between our early commitment to the space program, and the modern technological advancements we would now have difficulty living without. It is this remarkable history in space research and exploration that forces me to once again ponder how anyone could question the necessity of our continued effort on this increasingly important frontier.

In what has become an annual challenge to eliminate funding for the Space Station, as well as the role it plays in continued space exploration and research, some Senators once again tried cut funding for these important programs. Fortunately, these attacks were once again unsuccessful and Americans will continue to benefit from the limitless advancements possible through our continued investment in NASA.

While I have always been a staunch advocate of protecting our

nation's role in exploring our universe and in supporting those whose discoveries have changed our world for the better, I believe now, perhaps more than ever, is certainly not the time to be short-sited about the unlimited opportunities yet to be discovered through space exploration, space research and the International Space Station.

The recent success of the Pathfinder mission and discovery of water molecules in lunar rocks captured the nation's attention. Beyond the stunning pictures and important data from Mars, we have been reminded of the important contributions that the space program has made to medicine and the development of advanced composite materials.

Space exploration and the International Space Station are important to individual Americans and make a difference in their lives. We already have glimpses of promising discoveries made in NASA's microgravity program. Using data collected on an experiment flown on the space shuttle, researchers at New Century Pharmaceutical in Huntsville determined the 3-D atomic structure of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus which was used to develop an antibody. The capability to conduct long-term experiments aboard the Space Station makes all future developments in

science and medicine possible. As scientists frantically search for a cancer cure, as well as cures for other illness and disease, limiting their research and experimental resources is, at best, unwise and ill-conceived. I believe the Space Station promises to unleash a new era of meaningful extended space-based experiments and research.

In addition, NASA has already taken more than its fair share of budget cuts. Continued reductions in NASA's budget in Fiscal Year 1999 would be the sixth consecutive year of decreased spending for the space program—a reduction that seriously threatens our nation's ability to continue as the world leader in this arena.

Now, more than ever, we need to strengthen the space program, not end it. This most recent victory in which funding for space exploration and research was retained is not just an important victory for NASA, it is a victory for the American people and for the many accomplishments and discoveries still to come. I salute the committed men and women, many of whom work in Huntsville, Alabama's space-related industry, who work tirelessly to ensure that the United States remains ahead of the pack in space, while ensuring that Alabama maintains its important role in the space program.

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT: JULY 13, 1998